In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9, 14, and 16-18 and add claims 19 through 75 as shown below in the full set of all pending claims presented here for the Examiners convenience. A statement of the status of the claims and support for claim changes, as required by 37 C.F.R §1.173(c) is provided on separate pages after the set of all pending claims.

What I claim is:

1.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system for
computer software comprising:

        a memory for storing software for distribution to customers;

        a point of sale terminal including customer interface means
for receiving a software select customer choice input; [[and]]

        means for writing the software selected by [[a]] the customer
from the memory onto a software carrier; and

        means for associating an identification code with the selected
software provided to [[a]] the customer, said identification code
comprising at least one of the following identification parameters:
purchaser identification, point of sale identification and date of
purchase, wherein said means for associating comprises means and
for embedding said identification code on the software carrier.

2.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system for
computer software according to claim 1 and also comprising means,
associated with said customer interface means, for verifying means
of payment.

3.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer
software according to claim 1 and also comprising means for
printing manuals accompanying the software selected by the customer
and dispensing same to the customer.

4.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer
software according to claim 1 and also comprising means for
preventing copying of software copied onto the software carrier.

5.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer
software according to claim 1 and wherein said memory is located at
a point of sale terminal.

6.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer
software according to claim 1 and wherein said memory is located at

a location remote from a point of sale terminal and is connected therewith terminals by means of a modem.

7.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 1 and comprising a plurality of point of sale terminals in communication with said memory.

8.   (Original) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 1 and wherein said memory also contains information used to print manuals.

9.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 1 and wherein said point of sale terminal includes means for ~~permitting~~ remotely accessing by [[a]] the customer via a modem.

10.   (Original) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising means for dispensing said carrier bearing the software selected by the customer to the customer.

11.   (Original) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and wherein said memory comprises a CD ROM.

12.   (Original) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy.

13.   (Original) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising means for generating and displaying a menu for enabling a potential customer to locate software in which he has a potential interest.

14.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising key word search means

~~enabling~~ for searching, by a potential purchaser, ~~to search~~ available programs via key words in their names or descriptions.

15.   (Original) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior to a decision to purchase.

16.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising:

  means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy; and

  means for generating and displaying a menu for enabling a potential customer to locate software in which he has a potential interest~~, and wherein said means for associating comprises means for imbedding said identification code on the software carrier~~.

17.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system according to claim 1 and also comprising:

  key word search means ~~enabling~~ for searching, by a potential purchaser, ~~to search~~ available programs via key words in their names or descriptions; and

  demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior ~~to a decision~~ to purchase.

18.   (Currently amended) An automated merchandising system according to claim 16 and also comprising:

  key word search means ~~enabling~~ for searching, a potential purchaser, ~~to search~~ available programs via key words in their names or description; and

  demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior ~~to a decision~~ to purchase.

19.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software comprising:

a memory for storing software for distribution to customers;

a point of sale terminal including customer interface means for receiving a software select customer choice input indicating software selected from the memory;

means for writing the software selected by the customer from the memory onto a software carrier; and

means for associating an identification code with selected software provided to a customer, said identification code comprising a purchaser identification and for embedding said identification code on the software carrier.

20.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and also comprising means, associated with said customer interface means, for verifying means of payment.

21.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and also comprising means for printing manuals accompanying the software selected by the customer and dispensing same to the customer.

22.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and also comprising means for preventing copying of software copied onto the software carrier.

23.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and wherein said memory is located at a point of sale terminal.

24.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19, wherein said memory is located at a location remote from a point of sale terminal, said system further comprising:

a modem connecting said memory with said point of sale terminal.

25.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and comprising a plurality of point of sale terminals in communication with said memory.

26.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19 and wherein said memory also contains information used to print manuals.

27.   (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 19, wherein said point of sale terminal further comprises:
       a modem for remote access by a customer.

28.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising means for dispensing said carrier bearing the software selected by the customer to the customer.

29.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and wherein said memory comprises a CD ROM.

30.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy.

31.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising means for generating and displaying a menu for enabling a potential customer to locate software in which he has a potential interest.

32.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising key word search means for searching available programs via key words in their names or descriptions by the customer.

33. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising demonstration computer means for operating the software by the customer prior to purchase.

34. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising:

means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy; and

means for generating and displaying a menu for locating software by the customer.

35. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 19 and also comprising:

key word search means for searching available programs via key words in their names or descriptions by the customer; and

demonstration computer means for operating the software prior to purchase.

36. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 35 and also comprising:

key word search means for searching available programs via key words in their names or descriptions by the customer; and

demonstration computer means for operating the software prior to purchase.

37. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software comprising:

a memory for storing software for distribution to customers;

a point of sale terminal including customer interface means for receiving a software select customer choice input;

means for writing software selected by a customer from the memory onto a software carrier; and

means for associating an identification code with software

provided to a customer, said identification code comprising a point of sale identification;

wherein said means for associating comprises means for embedding said identification code on the software carrier.

38. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and also comprising means associated with said customer interface means for verifying means of payment.

39. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and also comprising means for printing manuals accompanying the software selected by the customer and dispensing same to the customer.

40. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and also comprising means for preventing copying of software copied onto the software carrier.

41. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and wherein said memory is located at a point of sale terminal.

42. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and wherein said memory is located at a location remote from a point of sale terminal and is connected there with terminals by means of a modem.

43. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and comprising a plurality of point of sale terminals in communication with said memory.

44. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and wherein said memory also contains information used to print manuals.

45. (New) An automated merchandising system for computer software according to claim 37 and wherein said point of sale terminal

includes means permitting remote access by a customer via a modem.

46.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising means for dispensing said carrier bearing the software selected by the customer to the customer.

47.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and wherein said memory comprises a CD ROM.

48.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy.

49.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising means for generating and displaying a menu for enabling a potential customer to locate software in which he has a potential interest.

50.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising key word search means enabling a potential purchaser to search available programs via key words in their names or descriptions.

51.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising:
       demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior to a decision to purchase.

52.   (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising:
       means for generating a sales report in hard copy form including at least one of the following identification parameters: purchaser identification, point of sale identification, program

identification, date of purchase, serial number for program copy; and

means for generating and displaying a menu for enabling a potential customer to locate software in which he has a potential interest, and wherein said means for associating comprises means for imbedding said identification code on the software carrier.

53. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 37 and also comprising:

key word search means enabling a potential purchaser to search available programs via key words in their names or descriptions; and

demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior to a decision to purchase.

54. (New) An automated merchandising system according to claim 53 and also comprising:

key word search means enabling a potential purchaser to search available programs via key words in their names or descriptions; and

demonstration computer means for providing to a potential customer the opportunity for operating the software prior to a decision to purchase.

55. (New) An automated merchandising system comprising:

a memory storing software;

a point of sale terminal including means

a) for receiving a selection input from a customer,

b) for associating an identification code with software selected from the memory in response to the selection input, the code including at least one of the following identifying parameters: purchaser identification and point of sale identification; and

c) for dispensing the selected software to the customer by writing the selected software, and the identification code associated with the selected software, on a software carrier.

56.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 55, further comprising:
   a modem for providing communications between the customer and the point of sale terminal.

57.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 56, wherein the communications constitutes a sale of the selected software to the customer.

58.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 57, wherein the memory is in the point of sale terminal.

59.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 57, wherein the communications include communications with the memory.

60.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claims 58 and 59, wherein the communications include communications verifying payment by the customer.

61.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 60 wherein the communications include information from which a manual accompanying the selected software may be printed.

62.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claims 56 and 57 wherein the communications include information from which a manual accompanying the selected software may be printed.

63.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 56, wherein the communications include communications with the memory.

64.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claims 56 and 63, wherein the communications include access to the selected software for evaluation by the customer.

65.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 64, wherein the selected software is accessible for evaluation by the customer

on the point of sale terminal.

66.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claims 55 and 56 wherein the memory stores information from which a manual accompanying the selected software may be printed, the system further comprising:

a printer, responsive to the information stored in the memory, for printing the manual.

67.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 66 wherein the printer is located with the point of sale terminal.

68.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 67 further comprising:

means for recording the identification code for sales records.

69.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 68 wherein the means for recording is in the point of sale terminal.

70.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 66 further comprising:

means for causing the printer to print sales records including the identification code.

71.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 66, further comprising:

means for recording the identification code for sales records; and

means for causing the printer to print sales records including the recorded identification code.

72.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 55 further comprising:

means for recording the identification code for sales records.

73.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 72 further comprising:

       means for printing sales records including the recorded identification code.

74.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 55, wherein the means for dispensing the selected software to the customer further comprises;

       means for dispensing the software carrier to the customer.

75.   (New) The automated merchandising system of claim 74, wherein the software carrier further comprises:

       a diskette.

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES
(37 C.F.R.§ 1.173(c)

1.   The status of the claims as a result of the amendment submitted herewith is:

    Claims canceled: None.
    Claims amended: 1, 2, 9, 14 and 16-18.
    Claims added: 19-75.

2.   The support in the disclosure of the patent for the changes made and for the claims is as follows:

Amended original claims 1, 2, 9, 14 and 16-18.

    The amendments to these claims are to avoid potential ambiguities noted during reexamination and are supported by the specification.   During reexamination, a question concerning support for the last claim element was raised. Support for this element of claim 1 is provided in Col. 3, lines 59-63.

New claims 19-54.

    These claims differ from claims 1-18 because independent claims 19 and 37 specify only one of the parameters in the identification code specified in claim 1, and are supported by the specification.   Claims 19-54 are similar to, but not exactly identical, with claims 19-54 presented in the reexamination.

New Claims 55-75.

    These claims are supported by the specification in the same manner as original claims 1-18 and are further supported by Fig. 2, and the text related thereto including Col. 3, line 19-36 and Col. 3, line 20 through Col. 4, line 14.